The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 5. WASHINGTON. D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 1919. WHOLE NO. 421.

U. S. REVENUE BUREAU TO ENFORCE LABOR LAW

Washington, April 26.—The internal revenue bureau of the treasury department has issued regulations putting into effect the 10 per cent tax on net profits of any concern employing children under the age of 14 years. Mines and quarries must pay a 10 per cent tax if children under 16 years are employed.

The department of labor which enforced the Keating child labor law before it was declared unconstitutional by the United States supreme court, is eliminated as an enforcing factor of the new law.

This was made possible when the revenue act, of which the child labor law is an amendment, went to conference at the last congress.

The senate had adopted a provision that appropriated money to enable the department of labor to make inspections and to fulfill such other duties as may be assigned to the secretary of labor to carry into effect, in co-operation with the commissioner of internal revenue, the provisions of the child labor amendment.

When this amendment came out of conference the words "in co-operation with the commissioner of internal revenue" were changed to read "upon the request of the commissioner of internal revenue."

As the law stands, the department of labor can not make inspections or carry on a rigid campaign to enforce the law until a request is made by the commissioner of internal revenue.

The manner in which the internal revenue bureau will handle this social evil is indicated by the following statement issued by the bureau:

"While it is the purpose of the bureau of internal revenue strictly to enforce the law, its aim is to administer its provisions in a way to cause as little inconvenience as possible to the business world and to offer no injustice to employes."

FIGHT CONTAGIOUS ILLS.

Washington, April 26.—A nation-wide campaign to prevent all communicable disease from following in the wake of the war is being inaugurated by the United States public health service.

Appeals are being made to every community in the land through the mayors, health officers, chambers of commerce, community councils, Red Cross chapters and citizens generally who are interested in health and welfare to stir them to action.

A program of work outlined by Surgeon-General Blue shows the organization required and the diseases most commonly known.

The water supply must be made safe by regular bacteriological tests to prevent typhoid fever, diarrhoea, dysentery and other water-borne diseases. Next in importance is the elimination of flies and the screening of food.

"An effort to ascertain whether or not the milk supply is safe is of the utmost importance," Dr. Blue said.

"Are the schools provided with medical supervision to control the spread of communicable diseases among the children and to limit the number of sources of contagious diseases which often spread rapidly when carried to susceptible persons?"

WOMEN FORCED INTO MILLS.

Boston, April 26.—One reason why employers are so insistent that women "be given the right to work" may be found in a statement by Mrs. William Z. Ripley, prominent suffrage advocate, in a speech in this city. She said: "More and more it is becoming impossible, especially in our textile centers, for the woman to stay at home on the wages the man earns. When we think of the women in industry we must remember that most of them have to work, both for themselves and for their dependents.

"Most of the women in industry in Massachusetts are working because they must. In some of our mill towns more than 40 per cent of the family income is brought in by girls under 16. An investigation among working girls in New York showed that 80 per cent of them were turning in their earnings toward the support of their families."

DEFENDS WAR CONTROL.

Chicago, April 26.—In a speech before the National Lumber Manufacturers' association Director General of Railroads Hines denied that the railroads have made a poorer showing under government control than they would have recorded under private management.

"Had private ownership been continued through the war emergency, there would have been disaster," said Mr. Hines.

The speaker opposed government ownership and private control as formerly conducted. He advocated a return to private management under a guarantee by the government of a fixed return on capital and suggested 4 1-2 per cent. He favors an advisory bureau by the government to set rates now fixed by the interstate commerce commission.

VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 26.—The house of representatives has passed a resolution to submit to the referendum a woman suffrage amendment to the state constitution. The senate must favor the plan and it must then be approved by the next general assembly in 1921.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 26. — The house has defeated a senate resolution to submit a suffrage amendment to the state constitution at the next general election.

LOW COST FOR INSURANCE.

Olympia, Wash., April 26.—Since the state workmen's compensation law became effective in 1914, the industrial accident commission has received from all sources $6,667,661 which it has disbursed in the course of business at an administrative expense of only 6.17 per cent, the balance being available for the payments of claims of workmen injured in Oregon industry. During the year 1918 there were 25,288 workmen injured in industry in the state, 182 of the accidents being fatal.

ORGANIZING BIG PLANT.

Bogalusa, La., April 26.—Employes of the Great Southern Lumber company, which is the largest concern of its kind in the world, are being interested in trade unionism. At a mass meeting about 250 workers joined the several crafts.

PASS INJUNCTION BILL.

Madison, Wis., April 26.—The state assembly has passed the Otto anti-injunction bill, which is similar to the Clayton law.

BOSTON PHONE GIRLS FORCE WAGE ADVANCE

Boston, April 26.—Telephone girls in this city and vicinity have won a six-days' strike for higher wages and against the "postponing" policy of the postoffice department in the adjustment of grievances. A general wage advance has been secured, and will total $3 a week where girls have been employed seven years and over. This class will now receive $19; they asked for $22. The new schedule dates back to December 31, when the old scale expired.

Electrical workers who joined the strike have been increased 50 cents a day in Boston and 62 1-2 cents a day outside of Boston. This establishes a uniform rate for these workers.

First Assistant Postmaster General Koons represented Postmaster General Burleson while the strike was on, and local trade unionists are marveling at the rapidity with which he "looked up the finances of the company." The postal official was quoted in the daily press that this was necessary first. With several thousand girls on strike and the system tied up throughout New England, Mr. Koons' investigation seems to have been both quick and thorough.

GOOD WILL NECESSARY.

San Francisco, April 26.—The average workman resents any tendency on the part of his superiors to look upon him as an automaton, says the California Safety News, issued by the state accident commission.

"He does, however, respond readily to any attitude which appears to give him a square deal and he will in nearly all cases respond in a co-operative way to any proposition which is put to him on a practical common-sense basis.

"The workman should always be encouraged to make safety suggestions. Companies have thought it advisable to offer prizes for good suggestions, but it has been found rather that a letter from the management, expressing appreciation of the value of the suggestion, is almost certain to obtain a higher degree of co-operation from the recipient. In fact, some workmen positively refuse to respond to what they term 'bribing with prizes.'

"The most lasting interest is probably that which is awakened when the workman is brought to a realization of his responsibility, first to his dependents and second to his fellow workers. There have so far been developed no hard and fast rules which can be followed in all cases with successful results, but special studies are necessary to overcome, let us not say a careless spirit, but rather an ignorance of the proposition and a tendency which exists in large measure in most men to gamble their personal chances against the law of averages."

TEACHERS' WAGE IS LOW.

Madison, Wis., April 26.—In a speech on low wages universally paid teachers, State Superintendent Cary took a new tack on this question. Instead of appealing to the public's sense of justice, he declared that no one need fear that the teachers will starve because of low wages.

"They can get out of the business of teaching when they find it necessary, and they do get out, but when they go out society is tremendously the loser," he said.

"Assuming for the moment that it is worth $10 a day, as we are told, for a child to be in school, the teacher who has 40 pupils for a single day renders a service that is to be measured in hundreds of dollars, and yet she receives for it only from $3 to $5. If it were a business enterprise in which the product could be sold for cash, under such circumstances a teacher might command $200 or $300 a day. We have faith in education. Let us show it by some degree of appreciation both in terms of money and in terms of honor and appreciation for the teachers who can render this great service to society."

MILLIONS GO BEGGING.

Washington, April 26. — More than $16,000,000 of returned checks are now in the hands of the war risk insurance bureau, many of them marked "unknown" or "unclaimed," as the result of the failure of allottees to notify the bureau of changed addresses. The Red Cross has been enlisted in the campaign to locate such persons, and has taken over 30,000 of the checks.

About 500,000 checks have been returned since December 31, 1917, and they are coming back at the rate of 1,396 a day. Some of them are not payable because of a change of the status of the allottee, but it is estimated that nearly 50 per cent are still payable if the proper addresses can be found.

EMPLOYERS STIFF NECKED.

Madison, Wis., April 26.—In an attempt to adjust a strike of metal workers in this city employers refused to meet with a mediation committee appointed by the mayor unless they were permitted to present their arguments at a secret session at which all representatives of labor and the public were excluded. The unionists told the mediators that when they were heard the meeting would be public, but if the employers had something on their minds that the public should not know that was their affair.

DEFEAT HEALTH INSURANCE.

Albany, N. Y., April 26.—The state assembly has defeated the compulsory health insurance bill, which was approved by the senate. The measure made it mandatory for employers who employed eight or more workers to carry health insurance for them, the cost to be divided equally between the employer and the employed.

The senate has passed the assembly bill that provides for the three-platoon system for fire fighters, to become operative when citizens of a municipality approve same.

TYPOS GET ANOTHER.

Johnstown, Pa., April 26. — The Johnstown Democrat has signed a union-shop agreement with the Typographical union. Rates will be $28 a week for day work and $30 for night work until September 1 and $30 and $32 thereafter.

FLAT JANITORS ADVANCE.

Chicago, April 26.—The Flat Janitors' union is initiating large numbers of these workers. The union has a membership of over 5,000. It is affiliated with the A. F. of L.

UNIONS' STRENGTH SHOWN IN ENGLAND

London, England, April 26.—The recent threatened strike of miners and railway men has been averted, but the crisis has driven home to the English people the power of the workers when they unite on the industrial field.

Reynolds's Newspaper is not a trade union publication, but the editor faces facts in discussing this question.

"The result of the negotiations which have gone on for the last few weeks," he says, "has made clear two things. The first is the power of really well-organized trade unions; the second is the value of the strike weapon. By the threat of a strike, and in no other way, have the miners and the railway men got justice.

"Before the war we were content as a people to see railway men working for 18 shillings a week, and even highly skilled men in responsible positions being grossly underpaid. At that time, too, the wages of the miners were on the average only a little over 30 shillings a week.

"Will any sane-minded man assert that if there had been some means by which miners and railway men could be prevented from striking they would have got what they now got?

"We hope that, by Whitley councils and other means, the danger of dislocations of industry by strikes will pass away. But the workers can never be sure that it will wholly pass as long as they have not in reserve the power to withdraw their labor as a final resort.

"In a community conscious of the right of every working man to a decent wage there should never be any need to strike, for the common sense of the community would see that no injustice was meted out to any of its members. The principle we have just admitted in the case of railway men and miners must be extended to all other workers. The guiding line must be that until all have a chance of a decent life, with well-nourished bodies and well-nourished minds, nobody has a claim to an excess of the general wealth produced by the community. This will seem a hard saying to those who have hitherto looked upon it as a right that they should be privileged above their fellows; but more and more will it become the principle upon which the state is guided in the future. With a labor government in power it would certainly become the dominant principle of politics."

OLD LIBEL IS EFFECTIVE.

Chicago, April 26.—The state assembly has defeated an anti-injunction bill. The old libel that trade unionists are asking for the right to destroy property was effectively used.

In a letter to the members of the Illinois Manufacturers' association, J. M. Glenn, secretary, said:

"Law and order should be the bulwark of our commonwealth. House bill 22 not only destroys your ideal but it provides for mob rule. It prohibits a court from protecting property.

"If you have not sent in the name of the individual who will represent you at Springfield, Wednesday, do so by wire to this office upon receipt of this circular. Union labor will be there in force and the influence of one manufacturer is equal to the influence of 25 shop men. The defeat of this measure is the most important business the manufacturers of Illinois have in hand.

"The Illinois Manufacturers' association has kept this bill off the statute books for 20 years and it has done so only because the members of the association have co-operaetd to bring about its defeat. Will you do it again?"

WON'T ACCEPT WAGE CUTS.

Chicago, April 26.—Street car men in this city have taken cognizance of statements in the daily press that their wages will be reduced to before-the-war standards at the signing of the peace treaty.

It is not known whether these statements have been published to "feel" the street car men on wage reductions, or if wage reductions are to be enforced or if other employers are behind the discussion.

In any event the street car men have given notice where they stand on the question, and in a statement to the companies and various public officials the workers say:

"To accept a wage reduction, under the circumstances and conditions that we have pointed out to you, would not only be a crime against our families, but it would be a grievous wrong to all other workers and a blow to the principles the best men and women of the world have struggled for the past four years."

FIVE-CENT BREAD GONE.

New Orleans, April 26.—"Even though the price of flour falls so that it costs the bakers of the country no more than the water they use in their bakeries, the price of bread will not fall to its former level," said George F. Ward of New York, president of the American association of the baking industry, in an address to the southeastern association of the baking industry.

"No matter how low the price of flour falls, and there is no present prospect of any reduction at all," said the speaker, "the price of bread cannot go to the old figure."

The price of labor, materials and operating costs are responsible, according to the New York man.

MR. BURLESON RAPPED.

New York, April 26.—The New York World, one of President Wilson's most ardent defenders, presents this compliment to Postmaster General Burleson:

"As a counsellor to the president, he has been a continuingly mischievous influence. As an administrator he has stirred up more popular discontent than all the bolshevist and I. W. W. agitators in the country. He has done for all the elements of reaction what they were helplessly incapable of doing for themselves."

FUR WORKERS STRIKE.

Newark, N. J., April 26.—Because A. Hollander & Sons have broken a promise not to discriminate against organized fur workers these employes suspended work to enforce recognition of their union, and secure a $5 weekly increase and a 44-hour work week instead of the 50 1-2 hour week.

SIX HOURS ENOUGH.

Shamokin, Pa., April 26.—"The sanitary conditions of the mines are such that no man should be entombed in them more than six hours a day," declared President Golden, of District No. 9, United Mine Workers.

RECALLS CENTRAL'S CHARTER

Washington, April 26.—Acting on the authority of the A. F. of L. executive council, Secretary Frank Morrison has recalled the charter of the Atlantic City central labor union because it violated a pledge that it would no longer be connected with a plan that used the name of the A. F. of L. to raise money to "entertain delegates" to the next convention of the A. F. of L. At the request of the executive council Secretary-Treasurer Spencer of the building trades department A. F. of L. has recalled the charter of the Atlantic City building trades council.

Several weeks ago Atlantic City trade unionists signed a contract with promoters and business men everywhere were asked for funds. Even the Island of Hawaii, in the Pacific ocean, was not overlooked in a plea for funds that involved the A. F. of L. Protests were made by A. F. of L. officials and as a result of a visit by Secretary Morrison to Atlantic City the central body agreed to withdraw from the contract and permit the A. F. of L. official to name a person who would take charge of all funds received and return same to the donors. The mayor of Atlantic City was designated and then the central labor union rescinded its action and continued to be a party to the "hold up." The executive council ordered the charter withdrawn after every attempt had been made to make declarations by A. F. of L. conventions effective.

GUN MAN GETS LIFE TERM.

Beckley, W. Va., April 26.—Sam Crews, a Baldwin-Feltz gun man, has been convicted of murder in the first degree and sentenced to life imprisonment. Crews was a "guard" employed by the Raleigh Coal company. He sneaked behind Thomas Baldwin, a miner employed by the company, and struck him on the head with a black jack. Baldwin died in a few hours.

Crews escaped and was later located in Oklahoma by officers of the United Mine Workers' union.

The testimony of Crews at the trial supported the claim of unionists in this state that the Baldwin-Feltz outfit is not an agency to detect crime and arrest criminals. It was shown that while the agency had in its possession Crews' photo and an offer of a $500 reward for his arrest, made by state officials, that it sent him out of the state to do work for it.

One of Crews' witnesses was a "guard" named Wickline, who is serving a life sentence at Moundsville for murdering a machinist whom he shot eight times. Wickline swore that at the time of the murder charged against Crews he was in the engineer's room across the street. He was asked how Crews could do guard duty and be in the engineer's room all night. He replied that the guards "were getting easy money."

VERNER Z. REED DIES.

Denver, April 26.—Verner Z. Reed died in San Diego, Cal., of pneumonia after a short illness. Deceased was a member of a commission appointed by President Wilson in 1917 to investigate far-west labor conditions. The trade unionists on this commission were John H. Walker, Illinois, and E. P. Marsh, Washington.

The findings of the commission in the Mooney case were especially strong. Regarding the testimony of Oxman, which made the conviction of Mooney possible, the commission said:

"It is true that Oxman was tried for attempted subornation of perjury and acquitted, but this is beside the present consideration. The fact is that he did write letters which tend completely to discredit any testimony he might give, and no testimony from Oxman, in the light of these letters, would receive credence necessary to lead to conviction.

"In fact, after the exposure of Oxman, the district attorney (Fickert) did not call him, though available, as witness in the trial of Mrs. Mooney. When Oxman was discredited the verdict against Mooney was discredited."

"MASTER MURDERER."

Philadelphia, April 26.—"Tuberculosis still ranks as the master murderer," says the Philadelphia North American in an editorial entitled "A New Fight On an Old Foe."

"Last year in Pennsylvania alone," says this paper, "tuberculosis was the direct cause of nearly 13,000 deaths—just one-seventh of the combined total of deaths in action and from wounds, disease and accident suffered by the American army during the present war. Its harvest of funerals in the 48 states was more than 150,000. And at this hour some 2,000,000 persons in this country are suffering from it—500 of whom will be dead by tomorrow morning!

"These are bare facts concerning the greatest battle we have to fight. And because this disease is no respecter of persons they must make a vital appeal to every one. And the more so since tuberculosis is preventable."

STEEL WORKERS CUT.

Lebanon, Pa., April 26.—Striking steel workers employed by the Bethlehem Steel company and the Lebanon Valley Iron and Steel company have issued a statement on wage cuts by these concerns. The reductions approximate 32 1-2 per cent. The strikers say that this policy is not only uncalled for, but it does not harmonize with very pronounced statements made by authorities on iron and steel products.

The reductions directly affect 1,500 men and will ultimately affect over twice that number.

LOW WAGE IN QUARRIES.

Columbus, Ohio, April 26.—The state industrial commission reports that in 1917 there were 2,490 wage earners employed in Ohio sandstone quarries. Of this number 888, or about one-third, earned less than $15 a week; 1,850, or nearly three-fourths, earned less than $18 a week, and only 112, or approximately one-twentieth, earned $25 or more a week.

TEACHERS UNITING.

Houston, Texas, April 26.—Public school teachers are organizing and will affiliate with the trade union movement. Unions of this calling now exist in Austin, Galveston and Denison, this state, and Dallas and San Antonio teachers are discussing organization.

NITRATE AT COST.

Washington, April 26.—More than $1,500,000 will be saved by the farmers this year by the government making available at reduced prices large quantities of nitrate for fertilizer. The department of agriculture has 150,000 tons of it, which will be sold at cost.

AN OBSCURE LAWMAKER.

Mineral Wells, Texas, April 26.—Thomas L. Blanton, representing the sixteenth Texas congressional district has finally been noticed by the public press.

He has attacked President Gompers and called on the American people to protect their liberties against the growing power of organized labor. It is the "old stuff" so common in the days of Parry, Post and Van Cleave.

Blanton said that President Gompers, by threatening a strike, forced President Wilson to veto a bill compelling government employes to work eight hours. The lawmaker refers to the Borland bill which extended the hours of government employes to eight and which was rejected by the president on the ground that the government asked private employes not to reduce working standards during the war and the government should be consistent.

Chicago, April 26.—Now that the war is over, John H. Kirby, of Houston, Texas, is again singing his mournful dirge against the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Kirby is prominent in the southern lumber industry, which is liable to be swept into the trade union fold. At a meeting of business men in this city the Texas man said:

"There is a privileged class within our country today, the class that takes the brand of the union label instead of the great seal of the state and is dictated to by the American Federation of Labor that maintains a lobby in Washington that hounds those not amenable to its dictates."

VICIOUS BILLS PROTESTED.

Jefferson City, Mo., April 26.—Legislative agents of the Missouri state federation of labor, the miners and the railroad brotherhoods have signed a joint appeal to trade unionists to protest to their state representatives against the enactment of pending legislation which includes the establishment of a state constabulary and the abolition of the primary election law. An attempt to pass a compulsory arbitration law has been defeated.

The unionists give warning that despite sacrifices made during the war the battle for democracy is by no means won. "On the contrary," says the statement, "if we are to reap a reward commensurate with these sacrifices, we must be prepared for further effort.

"We must organize our various crafts more thoroughly than ever before, and not only that, but, after thoroughly overhauling the machinery of offense and defense of each individual craft and strengthening it in every conceivable way, we must be prepared to so coordinate the powers of these various crafts that by co-operation we may be prepared to face with a united front any interest which might seek at this late hour to prevent our reaping the full benefits of victory."

WON'T PENSION JUDGES.

Madison, Wis., April 26.—By a four to one vote the state senate defeated a bill to give a pension of $5,000 a year to justices of the state supreme court after 20 years' service when they are 65 years old. In opposing the measure Senator Huber referred to attendants at state institutions who are paid $40 a month while supreme court justices receive $7,500 a year.

"I am opposed to this bill," he said, "because it proposes to pension the highest salaried officers of the state. If a pension system is to be adopted, I want to commence at the other end of the line; in other words I want to provide first for the men and women in the service of the state who are being very much underpaid.

"I would like to have some of you senators, who are so enthusiastically supporting this bill, to visit some of these institutions, and see the splendid work being done by this class of servants, and the niggardly salaries some receive."

UNIONISM GETS RESULTS.

Memphis, Tenn., April 26.—The Teachers' association in this city has been attempting to secure $70,000 back pay for its members since last September, and as a last resort the teachers affiliated with the Memphis trades and labor council and elected three delegates to that body. When the unionists were told of the teachers' troubles they appointed a committee that was ordered "to stay on the job until the teachers are paid."

The committee organized, but that was as far as it got, as the board of education gave notice that they would immediately mail the teachers their checks.

In connection with the situation, the Labor Review asks: "Now, isn't it strange that $70,000 should bob up, when, before the meeting of the trades council, it was impossible to get money from anywhere?"

PAINTERS' STRIKE ENDS.

Moline, Ill., April 26.—Representatives of the United States department of labor have adjusted a strike of painters on the housing project in this city.

Colorado Springs, Col., April 26.—A strike of union painters has been compromised by these workers accepting a wage increase of 10 cents an hour, making their new minimum 75 cents. They asked for a 15-cent increase.

Allentown, Pa., April 26.—Practically all of the contractors in this city have accepted the new wage agreement of Painters' union No. 122.

MAY CENTER ON ONE LAW.

St. Paul, Minn., April 26.—At a meeting of the officers of the Minnesota state federation of labor Secretary Lawson recommended that the next state convention indorse but one piece of labor legislation—state controlled workmen's compensation. Unionists in this state have for years urged this legislation. They now propose to center their fire against private insurance companies and their defenders.

TAXI DRIVERS WIN.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 26.—Union taxi drivers employed by a local corporation have reduced the work day from 12 to 10 hours and have raised wages from $16 to $20 a week.

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES.

Memphis, Tenn., April 26.—Wage increases and a Saturday half holiday have been secured by organized electricians.

HIGH WAGES A MYTH; THEY PURCHASE LESS

Washington, April 26.—In comparing changes in trade union wage rates and in retail prices of food from 1907 to 1918, the United States bureau of labor statistics shows that an hour's wages in 1918 purchased but 79 per cent as much food as in 1913, and a week's wages but 77 per cent as much.

As compared with 1907 an hour's wages in 1918 bought but 72 per cent as much food and a week's wages but 69 per cent as much food.

IS MINIMUM WAGE LAWS BUFFER FOR UNIONISM?

Little Rock, Ark., April 26.—Commissioner of Labor and Statistics Ben D. Brickhouse makes this significant statement in his biennial report:

"The minimum wage law is one of the best protective measures for labor upon the statute book of Arkansas, for those who are protected by its provisions are invariably unorganized and have no way of compelling employers to give them a shorter work day and a living wage, hence the law steps in and protects the weak."

The commissioner also shows how the telephone companies were more powerful than the law making power of this state at the last session of the legislature. He says:

"The legislature of 1919 has now amended the (minimum wage) law, making it apply to every one woman employed, except as to telephone companies. This exception was made simply because the telephone companies throughout the state were so well organized and opposed the amendment that it would have failed entirely but for the fact that they were not included."

BALK ON JUDGES' GOWNS.

Chicago, April 26.—Five county circuit court judges refuse to wear gowns that are intended, it is stated, to impress the world with "the dignity of the court." This tawdry is referred to as follows by the Union Leader, official paper of Chicago's street car men:

"The 'dignity' of the judiciary will be best served by doling out justice, free from flunkyism and the distinguishments of a tory period. Judges are men and no more. Men—American men—despise embellishments. Away with the gown and all the hideous history it has been associated with."

Another paper quotes the late ex-Governor John P. Altgeld:

"I am opposed to pretense and humbug, no matter whether found in high stations or in low, and in my opinion, if the American people ever reach a point where they must put robes upon their judges, or any other officers, in order to have the highest respect for them, then republican institutions will be at an end in this country; for men who can be inspired by a gown are but little removed from those who can draw inspiration from a wooden god, and neither are fit to either enjoy or defend true political liberty."

FOOD COSTS SOAR.

Washington, April 26.—The United States bureau of labor statistics reports that from January, 1913, to January, 1919, all food articles combined show an increase of 88 per cent. Since 1913 nine articles advanced 100 per cent or over—flour and potatoes, 160 per cent each; lamb, 101 per cent; eggs, 103 per cent; corn meal, 107 per cent; ham, 112 per cent; lard, 117 per cent; pork chops, 118 per cent and bacon, 129 per cent.

Comparing January of this year with the same month a year ago, the increase was 16 per cent. Round steak, chuck roast and plate beef were all 27 per cent higher than in January, 1918, while sirloin and rib roast show an increase of 26 per cent. Bacon increased 20 per cent; ham, 23 per cent; lard, 2 per cent; hens, 22 per cent; milk, 16 per cent, and butter, 24 per cent. Since last January corn meal has decreased 11 per cent; navy beans, 20 per cent and onions, 18 per cent.

GIRLS AS STRIKEBREAKERS.

Dubuque, Iowa, April 26.—The Brunswick-Balke-Collender company, manufacturers of Brunswick phonographs, is using girls to break the strike of its organized metal polishers. The strike was called in March because of trade union discrimination, low wages and long hours. The union now asks that the company agree not to discriminate, to pay wages equal to that paid by other phonograph factories and to grant the eight-hour day.

The employment of girls has aroused the strikers, who show that this calling has been pronounced by every authority one of the most dangerous health-destroying trades known.

RECOGNIZE UNION THEORY.

Washington, April 26.—Collective bargaining has been recognized by the joint congressional committee on reclassification, which was created by the last congress. A committee of three is provided for in each department of the government, one member to represent the head of the department, one the employes and one the commission. The commission has decided that the employes' representative shall be designated by the National Federation of Federal Employes.

PASS STATE INCOME TAX.

Albany, N. Y., April 26.—The state legislature has passed an income tax law similar to the federal enactment. Single men earning over $1,000 and married men earning over $2,000 are taxed 1 per cent. It is estimated that about $50,000,000 will be raised by the tax. One-half of this amount will be retained by the state and one-half will be divided pro rata among the counties.

POTTERS WANT SIX HOURS.

Richmond, Cal., April 26.—Pottery Workers' union No. 89 has declared for a six-hour day.

The next convention of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters will be asked to indorse the plan.

BUILDING LABORERS UNITE.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 26.—Building laborers in this city are conducting an organizing campaign and large numbers are joining the trade union movement.

6-HOUR DAY URGED; MINERS OFTEN IDLE

Indianapolis, April 26.—In defense of the six-hour-day demand of organized coal miners, the United Mine Workers' Journal quotes statistics by the United States bureau of mines to show that during the past 10 years the average days worked in the mines of this country ranged between 195 days in 1908 to 251 days in 1917. No figures are given for last year, when all mining records were broken, although 70,000 members of the United Mine Workers were with the military forces.

"We see from these official figures," says the United Mine Workers' Journal, "that even in the years when the demand for coal was at its highest point the miners worked only an average of from 209 days (in 1915) to 251 days (in 1917) out of the 312 working days of the year. And yet they met every demand and every requirement. They could have produced a billion tons of coal in a year if it had been needed, instead of approximately 600,000,000 tons, which was the highest mark.

"If the miners produced this amount of coal in 251 eight-hour days, they could have met the same demand in 312 six-hour days. And if they were paid the same price per ton for producing the coal, what difference would it make in the cost whether they produced the coal in eight hours or six hours? None whatever.

"If the miners can produce in six hours all the coal that is needed, why should they be required to work eight to get out the same amount of coal?"

EQUIPMENT PRICE LESS.

Ottawa, Canada, April 26.—The government announces that soldiers who participate in the benefits of its land settlement provisions will have the advantage of considerable reductions in price on the purchase of agricultural implements, live stock and harness. The government has made arrangements to this effect with private parties, and will not sanction the purchase by soldiers of implements at prices greater than those quoted through these concessions.

Twelve hundred retail lumber dealers in the three prairie provinces will sell lumber at wholesale prices, plus bare cost of unloading, handling and other charges.

Under the government's land scheme a soldier must pay 10 per cent of the purchase price in cash, but where soldiers have had farm experience in Canada, or who are otherwise qualified or equipped for farming, and who are not able to pay the 10 per cent, this amount may be waived by the government. The purchase price must be in 25 annual installments with a 5 per cent interest charge. Care is taken that the soldier is not victimized in the sale of land and that the land scheme will not be used by exploiters.

OPPOSE SPY SYSTEM.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 26.—The legislative committee of the Pennsylvania state federation of labor is urging trade unionists to protest against the enactment of a law which would create a public welfare commission to be appointed by the governor. The commission would have limited jurisdiction over certain state departments, including the department of state police (cossacks) and home guards, numbering 15,000, which are to be made an auxiliary to the state constabulary and used as such, whenever, in the opinion of the council of public welfare, their services are required.

Another bill that is protested would establish the Russian spy system in Pennsylvania. It provides for a volunteer police force to serve under the same council of public welfare. These volunteer police will receive no pay, but will have power equal to other policemen. They are to be appointed by the governor and may be moved from one part of the state to another.

BROOM MAKERS GAIN.

Chicago, April 26.—Secretary-Treasurer Boyer of the Broom and Whisk Makers' International union, reports that local No. 9, Hamilton, Ontario, has increased wages 27 per cent at the Walter Woods company plant and local No. 2, Detroit, Mich., has secured substantial wage increases.

In New York city union broom makers suspended work when the employers attempted to lower wages. The secretary of the New York Broom Manufacturers' association told the unionists "there was nothing to consider," but after a four-weeks' strike the workers returned to the shops with a wage increase, instead of a reduction.

In Philadelphia broom makers are striking against a 50 per cent wage reduction. The shops are idle.

DOES DETROIT NEED LABOR?

New York, April 26.—In New York's daily newspapers this week it was announced that a strike of 20,000 automobile workers was threatened in Detroit."

In another section of one of these papers was printed a Detroit dispatch that "the board of commerce has sent out a a call for demobilized soldiers to come to Detroit."

"Some weeks ago," it was stated, "the board of commerce sent out notices warning returned fighters of a scarcity of jobs in Detroit. The conditions are now reversed."

IGNORE AWARD.

Denver, April 26.—The school board has ignored an arbitration award which calls for the reinstatement of striking engineers. The arbitrators said: "Full investigations have proved that every engineer formerly employed by the school board is competent, but that some of those now holding jobs left by the strikers are inefficient and a dangerous menace to 'Denver's young' and millions of dollars' worth of property."

TEAM DRIVERS GAIN.

Madison, Wis., April 26.—Organized ice and coal wagon drivers employed by the Conklin & Sons company have raised wages 50 cents a day, making their rate $4.50. Helpers are advanced 25 cents a day, or to $4.25, and new employes will receive $4 a day. The agreement dates back to April 1.

ST. LOUIS TAILORS STRIKE.

St. Louis, Mo., April 26.—Tailors employed by clothing houses in this city suspended work to enforce the eight-hour day and a wage rate of $25 a week. The strikers are members of Journeymen Tailors' union No. 11.

POSTAL CHIEF SCORED BY BOSTON NEWSPAPER

Boston, April 26.—Responsibility for the strike of telephone girls and electrical workers that tied up business in this section of the country is laid at the door of Postmaster General Burleson by the Boston Evening Record.

In an editorial entitled "The Casual Mr. Burleson," that paper says:

"What Mr. Burleson appears incapable of understanding is that there is a deep-seated and ineradicable hostility towards his method of exerting government control over the telephone system. What he fails to comprehend is that in its present status this strike is not simply a strike for higher wages, but is a protest against his inefficient and exasperating method of treating such questions.

"The attitude of the telephone operators is that they have been handed promises and have encountered vexations and delays for three months, and that they are not interested in any promises of a continuance of precisely those conditions against which they have made their stand. Presumably if Mr. Burleson should tell the operators that their schedules for higher wages would be immediately accepted, they would return to the switchboards. Mr. Burleson offers nothing of the kind. The striking operators are quite logical in assuming, then, that his promise of further consideration implies no such granting of their demands, but, on the contrary, may lead to a modification or complete denial of them.

"Mr. Burleson throughout the situation—which began to develop three months ago—has shown an amazing lack of understanding and an exasperating inability to grasp the fact that by dawdling and shifting, the convienience and safety of this city, and other cities, was being imperilled. His course throughout has been futile and it has produced disaster. His latest action is consistently blundering."

SINGLE TAX IDEA GROWS.

New York, April 26.—That opposition is growing to the practice of holding idle land for increased values is shown by this statement published in The Public, a weekly magazine in this city:

"Rack-rented New Yorkers and Americans in general will do well to keep an eye on Canada. Ottawa has been granted power by the Ontario legislature to submit to the people an ordinance exempting improvements and personal property—excepting water rates and school taxes—from taxation. The terms of the ordinance call for an exemption of 25 per cent. the first year, 50 per cent. the second year, 75 per cent. the third year, and a total exemption the fourth year.

"Persons who are acquainted with local conditions believe the people will approve the bill. If it is approved, Ottawa will in the space of four years have removed all taxes, save school and water taxes, from the products of industry, and added a corresponding amount to the tax on land. The difference to owners of well improved property will not be material, but to the owners of vacant land or poorly improved land it will be a compelling influence toward improvement. New York tenants may well ask themselves what the effect on rents would be if New York had fewer vacant lots and more buildings."

CIGAR MAKERS STICKING.

San Juan, Porto Rico, April 26.—"He who has passed three can pass six" is the slogan of 15,000 cigar makers and strippers who were locked out three months ago by the Porto Rican American Tobacco company. The Porto Rican senate has appointed a committee of its members to attempt a settlement of the difficulty and conferences have been held between the company and its striking employes, many of whom are members of the Cigar Makers' International Union of America. Other of the strikers are directly affiliated with the A. F. of L.

The strikers are assisted by Organizer Farrell of the cigar makers' international and R. S. Sexton, representing the A. F. of L. The United States department of labor has assigned Oscar Nelson to act as conciliator. The company pays in wages and in internal revenue into the insular treasury over $5,000,000 a year, which is now being lost to the island.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Ore., April 26.—An arbitration board has made the following award for newspaper members of Typographical union No. 58: $7.50 for day work and $8.25 for night work, with 7½ hours; overtime, day rate, $1.50 an hour; night, $1.65 an hour. These increases shall date back to the first of the year.

The board said that the wage demand was "reasonable and just," and that the evidence submitted showed that the cost of living in this city has increased 73 per cent since 1914.

The board further stated that skilled workmen in other crafts in Portland have been, and are now, receiving a very much higher scale of wages than is being paid to these printers, and that the advance of 7 per cent in 1917 "was wholly inadequate" to meet the increased cost of living and was accepted by the workers only as a means of securing other sought-after concessions.

8-HOUR LAW DON'T APPLY.

Portland, Ore., April 26.—The attorney general of this state has made an unofficial ruling that irrigation work done by public improvement districts which use the credit of the state is not public work under the provisions of the state eight-hour law.

If this decision is sustained it will probably prevent state officials from interfering with private employment agencies sending men to this work where the nine-hour day is the rule.

CAN'T STOP UNIONISM.

Waukegan, Ill., April 26.—When the American Steel company discovered that trade unionists were arranging to hold a mass meeting that might "affect" its employes it hired the largest hall in the city, secured all the music possible and advertised an evening's entertainment. About 50 men and boys enjoyed the show. The unionists secured the next largest hall which was packed by nearly 1,000 workers and over 150 joined the trade union movement.

WANT MORE BENEFITS.

Lonaconing, Md., April 26.—Increased compensation rates for injured workers was urged at the convention of the Maryland-District of Columbia federation of labor. The unionists will also ask the state legislature to reduce the period before compensation for injury begins.